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Senate Scholar from Waupaca High School Visits Madison

Madison... State Senator Luther S. Olsen (R-Ripon) welcomed Kayla Cain, a senior from Waupaca High School, to the Capitol this week as part of the Senate Scholar Program. "It was a pleasure to meet Kayla and talk about important pieces of legislation that have been passed during her lifetime," said Senator Olsen after meeting one-on-one with Kayla on Thursday. Kayla is planning to attend UW-Madison next year and study microbiology.

The Senate Scholar Program gives students the opportunity to learn first-hand how the legislature works and the different people and professions that contribute to the lawmaking process. Senate Scholars met with legislative support agencies, legislative staff, the Governor's staff, a Supreme Court Justice, the media, lobbyists and University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty members. In addition to these meetings, Senate Scholars engage in hands-on learning by drafting a bill and holding a mock committee hearing on their bill.

"The Senate Scholar Program gives high school students a glimpse into how the legislative process really works. I was impressed that the bill they drafted was based on a letter they received from a constituent. In reality, that is often how legislators get ideas for bills," explained Senator Olsen. He added that "Kayla learned about Wisconsin government, got to know some legislators, and met students from around Wisconsin with similar interests."

The Senate Scholar Program is held annually and is open to 33 high-achieving students around the state.